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NO. 20
GIRL CONFESSIONS
ON SALE EVERY MONTH
10¢
OKAY, BABY! YOU'VE HAD YOUR LITTLE JOKE... NOW YOU CAN GET YOURSELF SOMEONE ELSE TO LAUGH AT! AND WHEN YOU WANT ME AGAIN, DON'T BOTHER TO CALL!
DON'T MISS... "HIS LAST GOODBYE!"
"MY FIRST LOVE!"

PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS!—THOUSANDS PRAISE KAL-X!—PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS!

# DON'T BE FAT!

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GOOD FOR MEN AND WOMEN!

PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS.

SOLD ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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(Patent Pending)

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"IT REALLY DID THE JOB!"
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"LOST 60 POUNDS
*Since chewing KAL-X Gum"* V. S. St. Louis, Mo.

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THOUSANDS CHEER KAL-X!

*"LOST 21 POUNDS ALREADY" V. G. Newark, N. J.

*"LOST 18 POUNDS ON THE FIRST BOX" G. B. Vidor, Texas

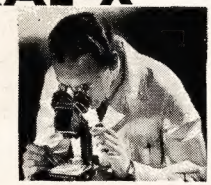
NOW!—TRY THE KAL-X GUARANTEED TESTED PLAN! EAT AND GROW THIN! DON'T SUFFER HUMILIATION AND RIDICULE BY BEING FAT! KAL-X IS DELICIOUS! ENJOY CHEWING KAL-X BETWEEN MEALS INSTEAD OF FATTENING FOODS AND LOSE WEIGHT!

*Your own experience may, of course, vary.

LOSE FAT OR MONEY BACK!

KAL-X GUM CO., Dept. 10-G
93 MONTGOMERY ST., JERSEY CITY 2, N. J.

## ENJOY CHEWING KAL-X GUM INSTEAD OF FATTENING FOODS! THEY'RE DELICIOUS!



THOUSANDS PRAISE KAL-X!

**DOCTORS AGREE:** That fat people tend to die younger and become easy victims of many diseases! Your doctor's recommendation and approval is invited. If your excess fat is not due to glandular or organic causes— Don't Wait! Mail Coupon Below Today! Don't miss dating and good times because you're FAT! Try KAL-X Tested Plan. Satisfaction or Money Back! KAL-X IS SAFE!

MAIL THIS COUPON

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!

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Send Full Supply of KAL-X and Tested Plan for $2.00 plus postage. ☐

I want to save 40c C.O.D. postage so I enclose $2.00 with order. ☐.

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PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS!—THOUSANDS PRAISE KAL-X!—PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS!

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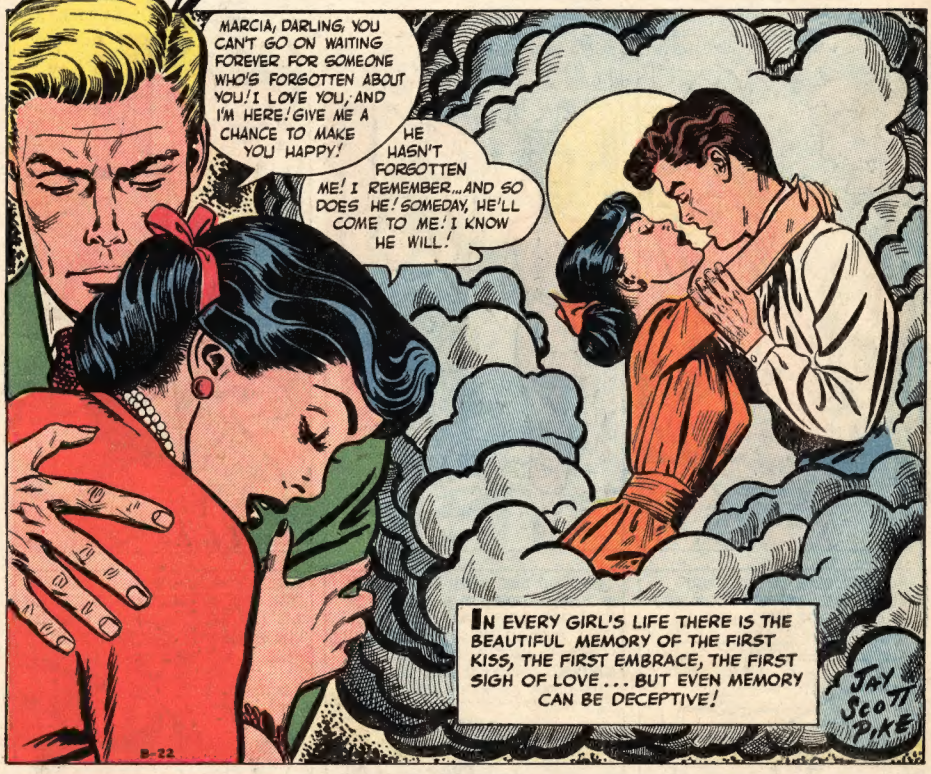
# My First Love



ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

I KNOW! STILL YEARNING FOR THE BOY YOU LEFT BEHIND IN YOUR HOME TOWN...STILL DREAMING OF YOUR FIRST LOVE...AND WAITING FOR HIM TO SHOW UP AND CLAIM YOU! MARCIA, HOW CHILDISH CAN YOU GET? YOU'RE TOO SMART TO CLING TO A GIRLISH DREAM LIKE THAT!
PERHAPS, PETE...
BUT THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU NEW YORKERS... NO SENTIMENT... NO ROMANCE! I'M A SMALL-TOWN GIRL WITH SIMPLE DREAMS AND HOPES...AND THEY ALL INCLUDE OSSIE RUTGERS! GO AHEAD AND LAUGH AT ME IF YOU WANT TO!
I'M NOT LAUGHING AT YOU! IT'S JUST THAT I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU AND WAN'T TO GIVE YOU REAL LOVE, INSTEAD OF SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN DEAD FOR FIVE YEARS!
AFTER ALL, HE HASN'T WRITTEN TO YOU SINCE YOU CAME HERE! HE'S FORGOTTEN YOU, MARCIA!
HE COULDN'T HAVE! I REMEMBER... SO DOES HE! IT WAS TOO BEAUTIFUL TO DIE... AND SOMEDAY, HE'LL COME TO ME!
OH, MARCIA! MARCIA! LET'S NOT YELL AT EACH OTHER! LOOK, YOU DO CARE FOR ME A LITTLE, DON'T YOU?
MORE THAN A LITTLE, PETE!
HIS KISS WAS WARM AND SWEET! IF IT WASN'T FOR THE MEMORY OF MY FIRST LOVE... THE LOVE THAT STILL BURNED BRIGHTLY INSIDE ME, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN ANYTHING I COULD ASK TO ACCEPT THE LOVE OF PETE SAWYER!
MARCIA, DARLING... YOU CAN'T GO ON FOREVER WAITING... WAITING! GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO MAKE YOU FORGET HIM FOREVER! I CAN DO IT IF YOU'LL LET ME!
ALL RIGHT, PETE! LET'S GIVE IT A TRY!
2

I WONDERED IF I HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING IN GIVING UP ON OSSIE! I STILL COULDN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY HEAD! A FIRST LOVE IS NEVER FORGOTTEN! I CARRIED THE MEMORY WITH ME ALWAYS...THE MEMORY OF YOUTH AND LOVE AND ROMANCE...

GOSH, MARCIA, IT'S WONDERFUL TO HOLD YOU LIKE THIS..AND KISS YOU!

I KNOW, OSSIE! I KNOW!

TOGETHER WE HAD SHARED THE BLISS OF A FIRST KISS...TOGETHER WE HAD DISCOVERED THE WONDER OF THE MOON AND THE STARS...TOGETHER WE HAD THOUGHT THERE NEVER WOULD BE...OR COULD BE ANYONE ELSE BUT EACH OTHER...

OSSIE! OSSIE! YOU COULDN'T FORGET! YOU COULDN'T!

STILL, PETE WAS RIGHT! I COULDN'T GO ON WAITING FOREVER! AND HE WAS NICE...VERY NICE! HE LOVED ME, I WAS SURE OF THAT, AND I BEGAN TO THINK LESS AND LESS OF THE BOY BACK HOME...

JUST NAME THE DAY, DARLING, AND AS MRS. PETE SAWYER, YOU'LL MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

LET'S MAKE IT IN A MONTH, PETE!

AS I WAS WRAPPED IN HIS EMBRACE I COULDN'T HELP WONDERING... WOULD SECOND LOVE EVER TAKE THE PLACE OF FIRST LOVE? WOULD PETE EVER MAKE ME FORGET COMPLETELY THE LONGING FOR OSSIE THAT HAD BURNED FOR FIVE LONG YEARS? I DIDN'T KNOW..I COULD ONLY HOPE...FOR HIS SAKE AS WELL AS MINE!

IT WAS GOING TO BE A QUIET WEDDING AND WE WERE GOING TO BERMUDA FOR A MONTH! I WAS GOING OVER MY THINGS IN MY HOTEL ROOM A WEEK BEFORE THE CEREMONY WHEN THE PHONE RANG..

HOLD YOUR HORSES, PETE, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

BRRRRRRING!

HELLO, DARLING! SORRY, I WAS PACKING...

HELLO THERE YOURSELF, DARLING! THIS IS OSSIE RUTGERS! FROM THE OLD HOME TOWN! REMEMBER ME?

MY HEAD WAS IN A WHIRL! THIS WAS OSSIE.. AT LAST! I COULD BARELY SPEAK...
OSSIE! OSSIE! OH, IT'S SO WONDERFUL... WHERE ARE YOU, DARLING?
RIGHT DOWN-STAIRS, SWEET-HEART! HOW'S ABOUT DINNER AT ONE OF THESE SWANKY NEW YORK CAFES, HUH?
I RUSHED DOWNSTAIRS AT ONCE... AND THERE HE WAS... MY FIRST LOVE...
OSSIE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WELL, WELL, WELL, WELL! LOOK WHO'S HERE! AND HOW DO YOU LIKE WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN?
HE WAS A LITTLE MORE PLUMP.. AND HIS HAIR WAS THIN AND NOT SO CURLY...BUT THEN, WE ALL GROW OLD...
IT'S SURE GOOD TO SEE YOU, MARCIA! IT SURE DO BE! YESSIREE! YEP! YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!
HUH? OH.. IT'S GOOD SEEING YOU, TOO, OSSIE!
HIS CONVERSATION WAS STRANGE, FILLED WITH EXPRESSIONS I HAD FORGOTTEN! BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER! MY MAN WAS WITH ME...
SAY, MARCY, HOW DO YOU MAKE OUT THESE HERE MENOOS? I CAN'T MAKE HEAD OR TAIL OUT OF 'EM! CAN I ORDER A HAMBURGER STEAK?
SURE, EXCEPT THAT HERE THEY CALL IT SALISBURY STEAK!... ER, DO YOU WANT ME TO ORDER, DARLING?
Roget's
WISH YOU WOULD, MARCY! CAN'T SEE HOW YOU LIVE IN THIS HURDY-GURDY TOWN! GOOD PLACE TO VISIT, I GUESS, BUT I WOULDN'T LIVE HERE IF THEY GAVE IT TO ME AS A GIFT! TOO MANY PEOPLE!
THEY'RE LIKE THE FOLKS BACK HOME, OSSIE! NO DIFFERENT, ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM!
MAYBE SO... MAYBE SO! BUT HOW ABOUT YOU, MARCY? AIN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU QUIT CAVORTING AROUND?
CAVORTING AROUND? I DON'T UNDERSTAND, OSSIE...
WELL, YOU KNOW...GAL LIKE YOU..YOUNG, PRETTY AND ALL.. LIVING ALONE.. SOWING YOUR WILD OATS...
OSSIE...THE MUSIC... WANT TO DANCE?

I HAD TO MAKE HIM STOP TALKING IN THAT VEIN! I DIDN'T LIKE HIS WAY OF SAYING THINGS! SO WE DANCED... AND I WAITED FOR THE THRILL THAT WOULD COME TO ME IN HIS ARMS...

IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS, OSSIE... AND YOU DIDN'T WRITE...

THAT LONG? REALLY? TIME SURE FLIES, DON'T IT? SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WE WERE KIDS IN SCHOOL TOGETHER!

BUT THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE, AIN'T IT? NO KIDDING, MARCY, YOU REALLY LIKE IT HERE?

IT'S A GOOD TOWN, OSSIE! IT'S BEEN GOOD TO ME! BUT, OF COURSE, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE YOUR OWN HOME TOWN... AND YOUR OWN FRIENDS!

NOSIREE! THERE SURE ISN'T! DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT WITH ALL THIS RACKET AND GANGSTERS STOOTING ALL OVER THE STREETS AND ALL!

OUR.. OUR DINNER'S READY, OSSIE!

WHAT? THIS IS A DINNER? AND THEY CHARGE SIX BUCKS FOR ***THIS?*** NEW YORK SURE IS A CLIP TOWN, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!

OSSIE, PLEASE!

NO WONDER YOU'RE SO SKINNY, EATING THIS KINDA FOOD! LOOKIT ME... HOW NICE AND FAT! THAT'S HOME COOKING, KID! NOTHING LIKE IT!

I..I GUESS NOT...

YEP! WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOME, THAT'S WHAT! NOT EATING IN CLIP JOINTS LIKE THIS HERE ..LIVING ALONE.. RUNNING AROUND!

OSSIE! STOP IT! I'M NOT... RUNNING AROUND, AS YOU PUT IT.. AND I DON'T LIVE AN UNHEALTHY AND WICKED LIFE, ALTHOUGH YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF I AM!

I WAS STRUGGLING HARD TO HOLD ONTO MY IDEALS OF OSSIE... TRYING TO REMEMBER HIM AS A SWEET, WONDERFUL BOY.. BUT MY IDEALS AND MY MEMORIES WERE BEING SHATTERED BY THE MINUTE...

OSSIE, I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF YOU FOR FIVE YEARS... WAITING FOR THIS MINUTE...

YOU..YOU HAVE?

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My first experience netted me $10.00 in about 2 hours. It was fun, and I made new friends, *Mrs. S. W. COLE, West Virginia.*

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**HARFORD FROCKS, Inc.**
Dept. H-286, Cincinnati 25, Ohio

**PASTE ON POSTCARD—AND MAIL!**

Harford Frocks, Inc., Dept. H-286, Cincinnati 25, Ohio

RUSH ABSOLUTELY FREE the big, valuable Harford Frocks Style Display so I can start quickly getting personal dresses without paying one penny for them, and make extra money in spare time besides.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

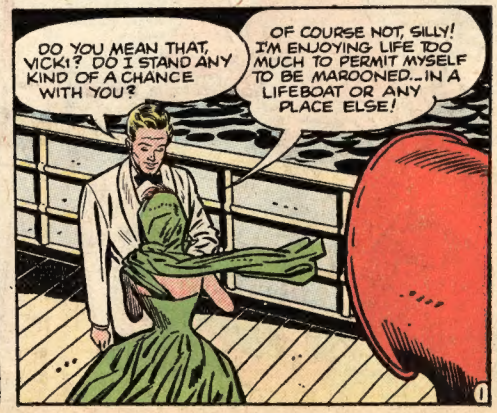
Dress Size _____ Age _____

# His Last Good-Bye!

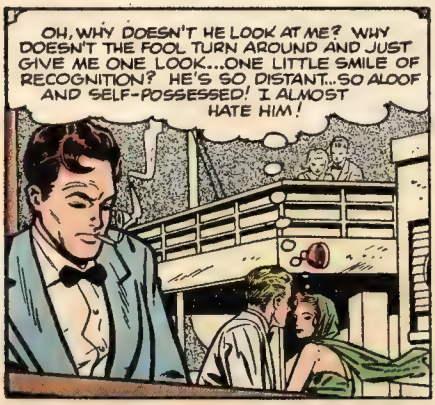
I WAS THE BELLE OF THE BALL! I WAS VAIN ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT EVERY MAN'S EYES WERE GLUED ON ME! I WAS PROUD ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT MY VICTORY WAS NOT REALLY COMPLETE BECAUSE THE ONE MAN WHOSE ATTENTION I YEARNED FOR SEEMED UTTERLY UNCONSCIOUS OF MY EXISTENCE!

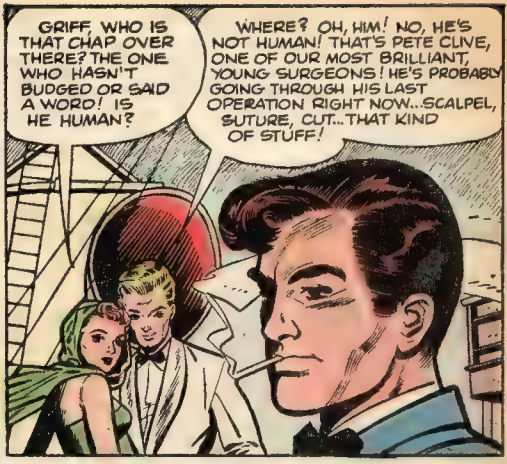
B-360

I GUESS GRIFF PENNING WAS RATED THE "BEST CATCH" OF ANY SEASON, AND YET MY THOUGHTS WERE ELSEWHERE



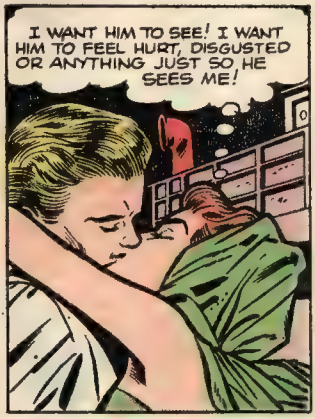
I DELIBERATELY LED GRIFF TOWARDS A SPOT FROM WHICH I COULD LOOK AGAIN AT THE ONE MAN ABOARD WHO WAS BLIND TO MY PRESENCE...



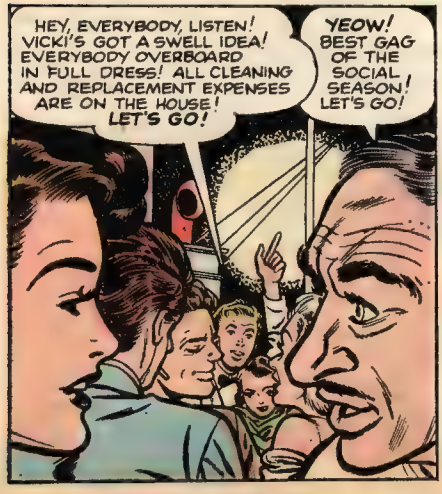




SUDDENLY, I GOT A WILD, IMPULSIVE IDEA...ONE OF THESE THAT SURGE THROUGH A PERSON LIKE AN ELECTRIC CURRENT...

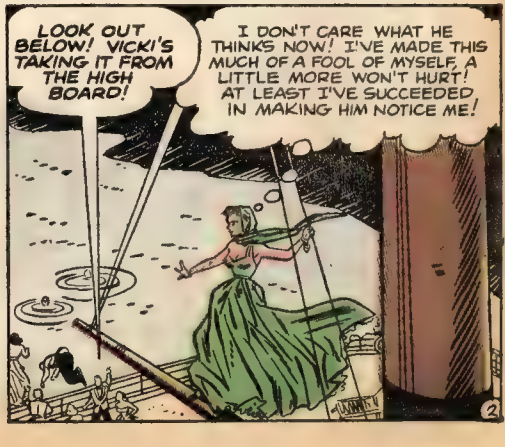
HE BENT FORWARD AND PRESSED HIS LIPS TO MINE EAGERLY...




BUT IT DIDN'T WORK...AND MY OWN FRUSTRATION FOUND RELEASE IN ANOTHER WILD GESTURE...




THE IDEA WAS CONTAGIOUS AND I WATCHED THEM DIVE OVER, BUT A STILL DEEPER IMPULSE MOTIVATED MY OWN ACTIONS...

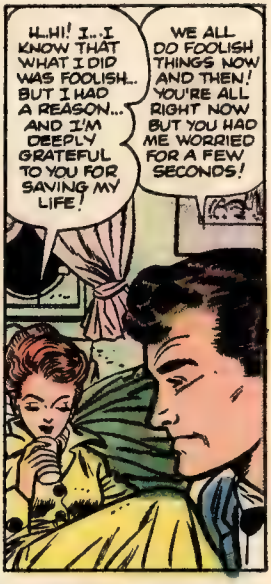


I LOST MY BREATH COMING DOWN AND KNIFED INTO THE WATER LIKE AN ARROW... PLUNGING DOWN... DOWN... UNABLE TO SLOW THE DESCENT...

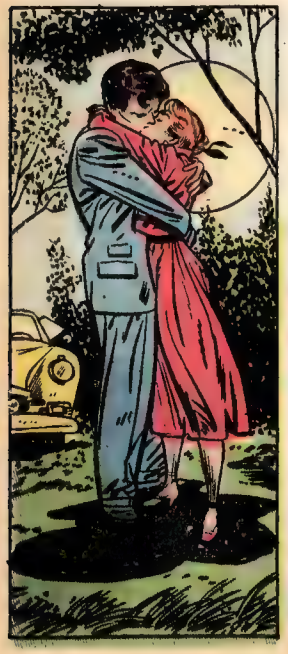
AND THEN I KNEW I HAD GONE TOO FAR! I FELT MY LUNGS BURSTING AS I STRUGGLED TO REACH THE SURFACE...

I FELT POWERFUL ARMS GRIPPING ME SAVAGELY AND THRUSTING ME VIOLENTLY UPWARDS! AN ETERNITY PASSED BY! THEN THE SWEET, LIFE-GIVING AIR RUSHED INTO MY TORTURED LUNGS...

I CAME TO IN THE STATEROOM! HE WAS SITTING AT MY SIDE, CALM BUT WORRIED, WITH A PATHETICALLY BOYISH EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY ON HIS FACE...THAT'S HOW WE FINALLY MET, PETE CLIVE AND I...



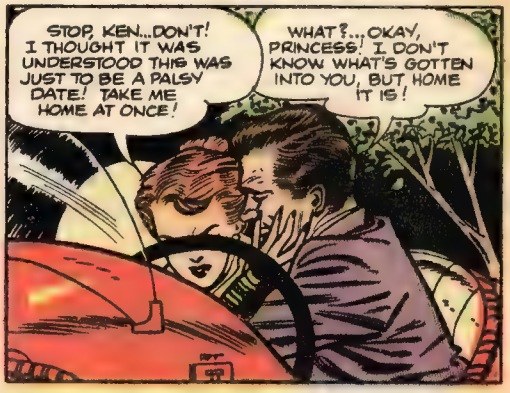

WE SAW EACH OTHER OFTEN AFTER THAT...AND THEN ONE NIGHT...

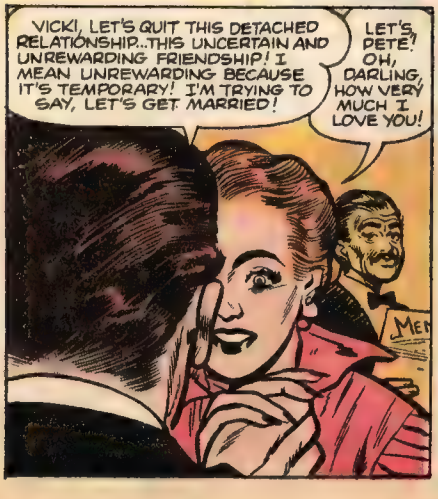


SECRETLY, I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF BUT I DEFENDED AND JUSTIFIED MY ACTIONS, ANGRILY! I LOVED PETE DESPERATELY, AND YET I WAS TRYING TO HURT HIM...

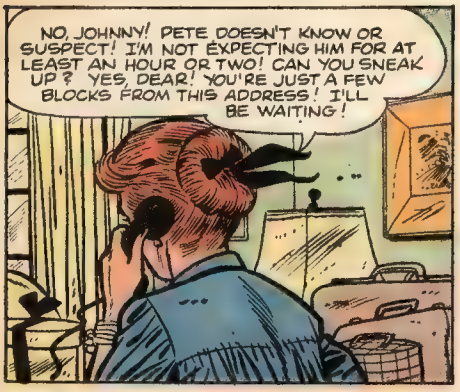
THAT WAS OUR FIRST GOOD-BYE! I FLUNG MYSELF INTO A FRENZY OF OTHER DATES WITH A VENGEANCE THAT SURPRISED ME IN ITS INTENSITY! FOR THREE YEARS I LIVED IN A DIZZY WHIRL OF FEVERISH ACTIVITY...

I PLAYED THE FIELD, FLIPPANT AND ELUSIVE, BENT ON CHASING THE LAST MEMORY OF PETE CLIVE OUT OF MY LIFE! BUT MY PURPOSE BACKFIRED AND I KNEW NOBODY ELSE COULD TAKE PETE'S PLACE...

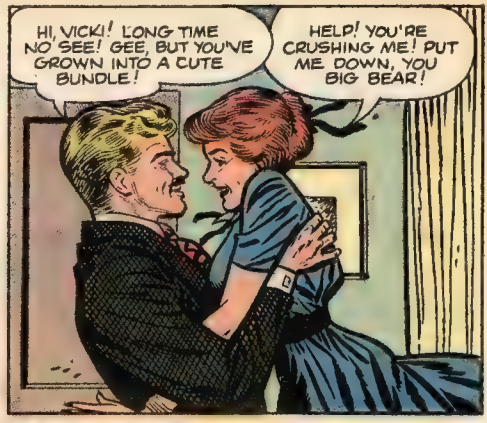


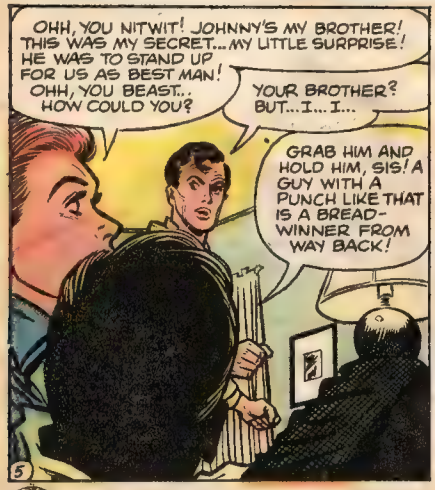


THE NEXT FEW DAYS WERE FILLED WITH A MILLION PREPARATIONS WHICH PETE AND I SPLIT BETWEEN US, BUT THERE WAS ONE SURPRISE WHOSE SECRET I ALONE KNEW...

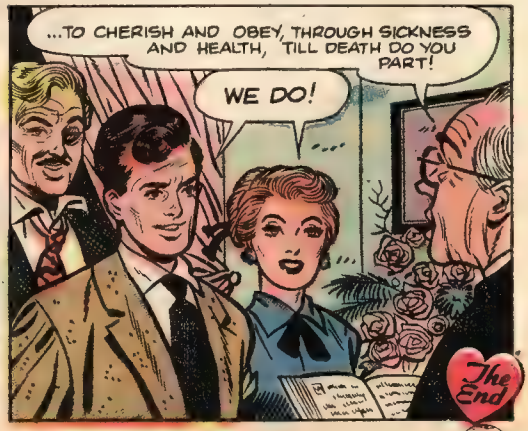



A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE DOOR SWUNG OPEN AND I WAS BEING WHISKED OFF MY FEET...






I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE MINISTER THOUGHT ABOUT US, BUT I DIDN'T CARE! WE WERE ALL TOO HAPPY TO APOLOGIZE FOR JOHNNY'S APPEARANCE...



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# I FOUGHT FOR MY LOVE

WHEN Philip first mentioned his mother to me, I was pleased and a little shocked at his deep devotion. He didn't seem the type of man who would ever be devoted to anyone—even to me. Of course, he had asked me to marry him and I had accepted, but somehow I still felt that there was a wide gap between us, preventing me from reaching a part of Philip that our love needed. It was when I finally met Philip's mother that I realized exactly what that gap was, and why Philip's love for his mother played such a big part in his life.

My life had always been practical and straightforward. My parents died when I was in my early teens, and my mother's sister had taken the responsibility of rearing me. I decided at an early age that I wanted to be a chemist and after I received my college diploma, I went to work for the Garson Laboratories where I met Philip Brack, a fellow chemist. There had never been room in my life for parties and dates and feminine wiles.

When I fell in love with Philip, I discovered my lack of the feminine pose, and I guess, I even regretted it. Not that I had been unhappy with my life so far, but I felt that Philip would have preferred a fiancée with frills and curls instead of tailored suits and short, straight hair.

Driving out to meet Philip's mother, Mrs. Brack, that memorable Sunday afternoon, Philip was as excited as a child confronted with his favorite toy.

"You'll love Mother," he kept saying. "She's really swell."

"I just hope she approves of me," I said. "From what you've told me, she'll probably be awfully particular about whom her son marries."

"Well, you know how mothers are about their only sons," he said. "They sometimes think that they are perfect human beings who are *entitled* to the very best in life." He looked over at me and taking my hand he said, "And anyways, she'll see, just as I've seen, that you are part of that 'very best'!"

I fell into the spirit of his optimism for a while, but as he brought the car to a stop in front of a large Victorian house, all my fears seemed to spring up again and warn me of an impending danger.

Philip helped me out of the car and held onto my arm lightly as we went up on the porch. He rang the doorbell and then opened the door and ushered me inside a dark anteroom.

"Is that you, dear?" a voice called.

"Yes, Mother."

"Come on into the library," she said. "I've been waiting for you."

From the moment I saw her, I knew we were enemies. She took no notice of me when we walked into the library—she ignored me as openly as if I didn't exist. Her eyes were focused on Philip, and those eyes told me that she would never let anyone take him away from her.

Philip kissed her on the forehead as she smiled adoringly into his face.

"Hello, darling," he said. "How do you feel for an old lady?"

"I'm not too old to forget how I used to turn you over my knee for an impertinent remark like that," she laughed.

"Well, Mother, here she is," Philip said, pushing me a little forward to her. "This is Beth . . . my Beth."

Mrs. Brack turned toward me and took me in with one sweep of her glance, and then she turned to Philip again. "Why, she's wonderful," she said with the utmost warmth, "quite wonderful! I always knew that you'd choose the best. Didn't I, Phil, boy?"

"You're very kind," I managed to mumble.

"Nonsense," she said to me. "You're just what Philip needs—good and substantial."

"I'm not too sure how substantial I am," I said with a false laugh, "but I hope I *am* what Philip needs."

I tried to keep my voice light and even gay, but I knew my eyes were gravely searching Philip for some sign that told me all was going well. We chatted on and when the conversation turned to me, I briefly filled in my personal history.

"So that's why you became a chemist," she said. "To escape your past life."

"I'm not escaping, Mrs. Brack," I said sincerely. "I love my work. And I loved my childhood, too."

"But you've never known the love of a mother," she said, "the true, deep love of a mother."

She reached over to take Philip's hand when she said this and for a moment, I felt that she was winning.

Philip was innocent of the

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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scene of jealousy being enacted in front of his eyes when he said, "But now she *has* a mother, darling. You'll be mother to both of us."

After the ice had been broken with his mother and me, she was constantly with us. No matter where we went or what we did, Mrs. Brack managed to squeeze into the middle of the front seat of Philip's coupe between Philip and me. On the surface she still pretended that I was the only girl in the world for Philip, but that didn't restrain her from making daily digs about my dress, my manners, and my job.

"Being a chemist hardly seems a job befitting a young woman," she'd say. "Look how those horrid, old chemicals have stained your hands."

I tried to take all of her criticism good-naturedly and sometimes I'd even explain to her the beneficial work I was engaged in. But she either didn't understand or wouldn't understand; all she knew was the fact that I wasn't playing the part of the helpless female—the part that she had played all her life.

The show-down came, as I knew it would, the day that Philip came bursting into the laboratory with a letter in his hand.

"We've done it, darling," he shouted. "They've transferred us to Washington to continue our work on synthetics. We'll be working with the greatest minds in the country."

"Oh, Phil, this is too good to be true."

"This is a break for *us*, too," he said, taking hold of both my hands. "We can go to Washington as Mr. and Mrs. Brack, two eminent chemists."

For the first time in months I was truly happy—not only because of our good fortune, but, also, because I knew Mrs. Brack would never let Philip go—especially since it meant that he'd be taking a wife with him, and all this meant a final show-down.

We were at dinner at Philip's house when he broke the news to Mrs. Brack and for a moment I could see that she was stunned. She kept herself steady and beyond reproach by congratulating us on our good fortune, but while we were having our demitasse her sweetness began to fade away.

"I feel very lonely looking at you two young people so happy," she said softly. "Philip, I think you're being unfair."

Philip looked up startled and for a moment he found it difficult to speak. "How, Mother?"

"By not considering my feelings," she said bitterly. "You are rushing into marriage and rushing to a new city and leaving me behind with no regrets."

"You can hardly say that we've been 'rushing'," I said. "Philip and I've known each other for over a year."

"It is not for you to correct me," she said, her eyes aflame. "I'm discussing this with *my* boy—and you haven't got him yet!"

I was shocked that she'd bring the subject out in the open, but I realized that she was beginning to worry that I just might be on the winning side. A thought that had never occurred to her before.

Philip was stunned and his rebuttal was weak considering that he was in love with me and wanted to marry me. He explained that he thought she'd be pleased with the idea and his strides toward happiness.

"You've always had plenty of friends," he continued. "I thought you'd be able to take care of things here by yourself—and, of course, you'd be welcomed if you want to go along with us."

"You know I'd never leave my home," she said, beginning to cry—without a sign of a tear. "I thought you'd been happy with me here."

From there on the conversation drifted into Philip's ungratefulness in wanting to leave home, and I couldn't stand any more. I told Philip this as I started for the door.

"This is a choice you have to make yourself," I said. "Your mother and I have different ideas about an individual's right to happiness. If you want me, you know where I'll be."

When I left, I thought I saw triumph in her eyes and I was frightened that I had left the battle too soon. His mother would be using all the feminine wiles I had never learned—and my only weapon was my faith in Philip integrity to stand up for his rights to a good life.

Back in my own apartment I felt lost for the first time in my life. I knew that I had behaved the only way I knew how to behave, but I, also, knew that the right path was not necessarily the happy path to take.

I must have slept for hours when the sound of the doorbell awakened me. The room was in total darkness and I had to feel my way to the light switch by the door. When the door opened, my eyes refused to focus for a moment, but when they did, I felt the tears well up in them. It was Philip. He didn't say anything as he took me in his arms. He didn't have to. I knew and he knew that the gap between us was beginning to close and we had won our first battle—that of fighting for our precious love!

THE END

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# THE WEAKLING!

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE, JUNE! -- I'M QUITTING!

IF YOU DO, YOU'RE A *WEAKLING!*

WHAT WOULD YOU DO, IF THE MAN YOU HAD MARRIED TURNED OUT TO BE A WEAKLING? THIS IS THE PROBLEM THAT JUNE BROWNING HAD TO FACE... WITH ALL HER STRENGTH!

MORRIS WEISS

I SHALL NEVER FORGET GEORGE'S HOMECOMING! IT WAS THE THIRD DAY OF SPRING, AND HE WAS BACK WITH HIS HONORABLE DISCHARGE, AFTER HAVING SERVED OVERSEAS FOR THREE AND A HALF YEARS! WE FELL INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS, AND REVEALED OUR HEARTS! I FELT THAT I SURELY WAS THE HAPPIEST GIRL ALIVE!

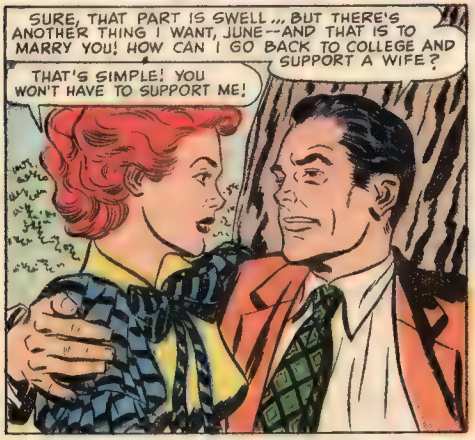
OH, GEORGE!

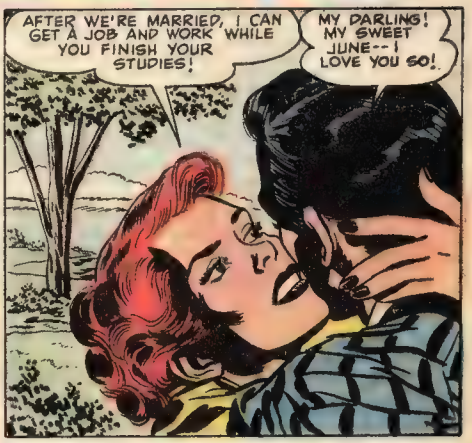
*JUNE!*

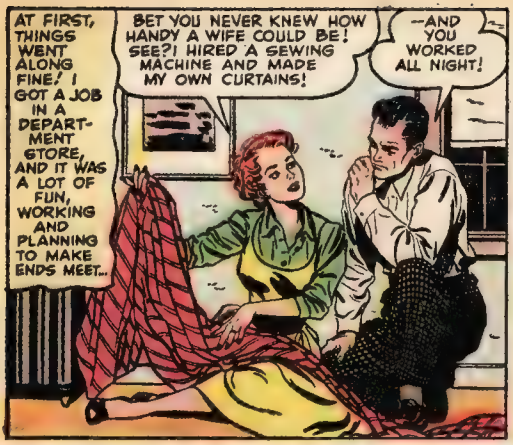
OH, MY DARLING, IT'S BEEN SO LONG...

I JUST WANT TO STUDY THE FACE THAT I'VE DREAMED OF SO MANY NIGHTS IN A COLD FOXHOLE!

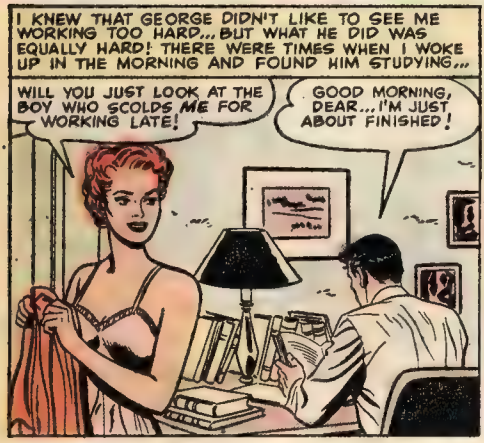
THE FIRST SUNDAY THAT GEORGE WAS HOME, WE SPENT TOGETHER! HE MET ME EARLY IN THE MORNING AND WE WENT TO THE COUNTRY! I KNEW THAT HE HAD LOTS OF THINGS ON HIS MIND, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL THE AFTERNOON THAT GEORGE BEGAN TALKING QUITE SERIOUSLY...

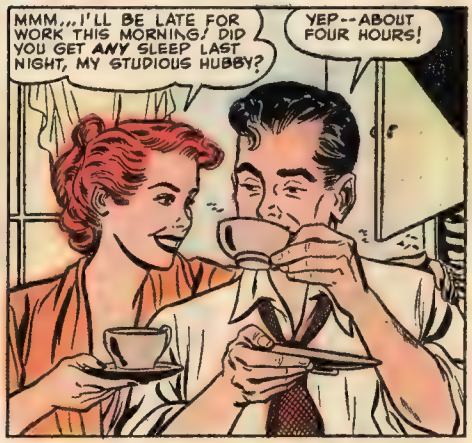


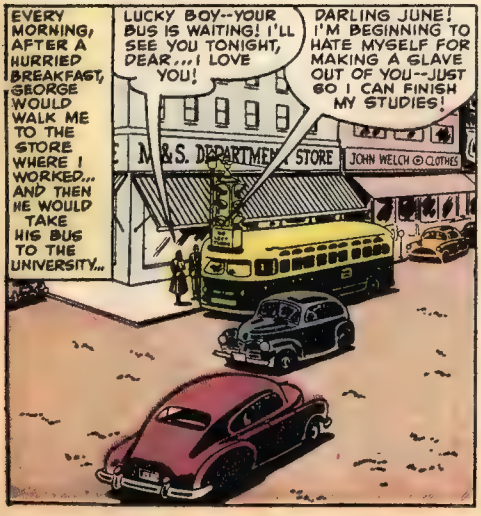




AT FIRST, THINGS WENT ALONG FINE! I GOT A JOB IN A DEPARTMENT STORE, AND IT WAS A LOT OF FUN, WORKING AND PLANNING TO MAKE ENDS MEET...
BET YOU NEVER KNEW HOW HANDY A WIFE COULD BE! SEE?! HIRED A SEWING MACHINE AND MADE MY OWN CURTAINS!
--AND YOU WORKED ALL NIGHT!

I LOVE IT... I'M WORKING FOR THE MAN I LOVE!
JUNE--SOMEDAY I'LL MAKE IT ALL UP TO YOU!


I KNEW THAT GEORGE DIDN'T LIKE TO SEE ME WORKING TOO HARD... BUT WHAT HE DID WAS EQUALLY HARD! THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE MORNING AND FOUND HIM STUDYING...
WILL YOU JUST LOOK AT THE BOY WHO SCOLDS ME FOR WORKING LATE!
GOOD MORNING, DEAR... I'M JUST ABOUT FINISHED!


MMM... I'LL BE LATE FOR WORK THIS MORNING! DID YOU GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT, MY STUDIOUS HUBBY?
YEP--ABOUT FOUR HOURS!


EVERY MORNING, AFTER A HURRIED BREAKFAST, GEORGE WOULD WALK ME TO THE STORE WHERE I WORKED... AND THEN HE WOULD TAKE HIS BUS TO THE UNIVERSITY...
LUCKY BOY--YOUR BUS IS WAITING! I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT, DEAR... I LOVE YOU!
DARLING JUNE! I'M BEGINNING TO HATE MYSELF FOR MAKING A SLAVE OUT OF YOU--JUST SO I CAN FINISH MY STUDIES!
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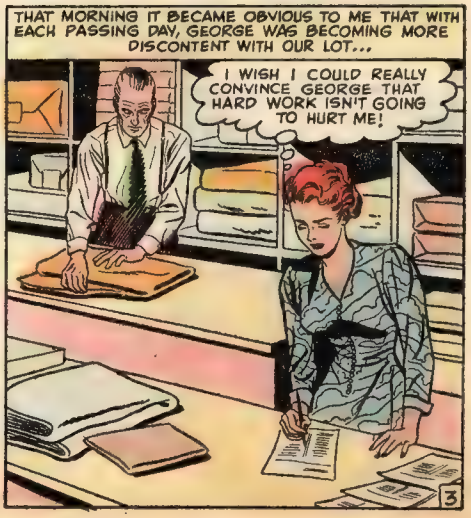

THAT MORNING IT BECAME OBVIOUS TO ME THAT WITH EACH PASSING DAY, GEORGE WAS BECOMING MORE DISCONTENT WITH OUR LOT...
I WISH I COULD REALLY CONVINCE GEORGE THAT HARD WORK ISN'T GOING TO HURT ME!

IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, GEORGE'S ATTITUDE ABOUT SCHOOL BECAME COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS WHEN WE GOT MARRIED! HIS SPIRIT HIT AN ALL-TIME LOW THAT DAY WE WERE WALKING ON THE CAMPUS AND HE STOPPED TO TALK TO BILL CROWDER, A CLASSMATE...

ARE YOU NEWLY-WEDS GOING TO BE AT THE SCHOOL DANCE TONIGHT? IT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO WEAR YOUR BEST GOWN, JUNE!

I--I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TONIGHT!

A FINE THING! MY WIFE AND I CAN'T EVEN GO TO A DANCE BECAUSE SHE HAS NO GOWN! I'M GETTING AWFULLY FED UP AT HAVING YOU GO WITHOUT SO MANY THINGS! I--I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE A *MAN* ANY MORE!

YOU ARE A WONDERFUL MAN AND I LOVE YOU!

THAT'S JUST WHY I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE! YOU'RE PAYING AN AWFULLY BIG PRICE FOR LOVING ME! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW I FEEL WHEN I SEE YOU WORKING LIKE A DOG WHILE I GO TO SCHOOL LIKE A LITTLE BOY?

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, GEORGE FOSTER! YOU CAME BACK FROM THE ARMY WITH SOME GRAND IDEAS, AND IF YOU DON'T STICK TO THEM, I'LL LOSE ALL MY RESPECT FOR YOU!

IT WAS ABOUT A WEEK LATER THAT GEORGE REALLY THREW IN THE TOWEL! I HAD TO WORK OVER-TIME THAT WEEK, AND MY NERVES HAD ALSO BEEN STRAINED...

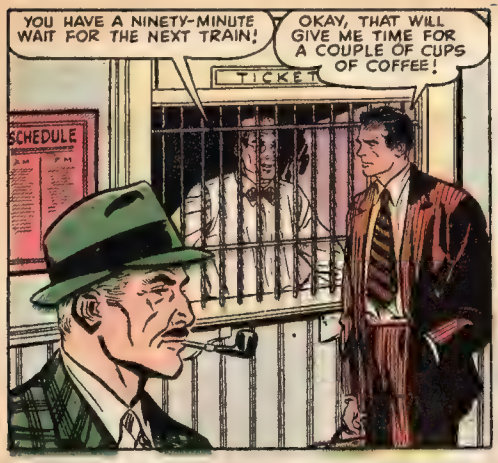
I'M QUITTING, JUNE! WE'RE LEAVING HERE! I'M GOING TO GET A JOB AND EARN SOME MONEY! IT'S TIME I STARTED ACTING LIKE A HUSBAND!

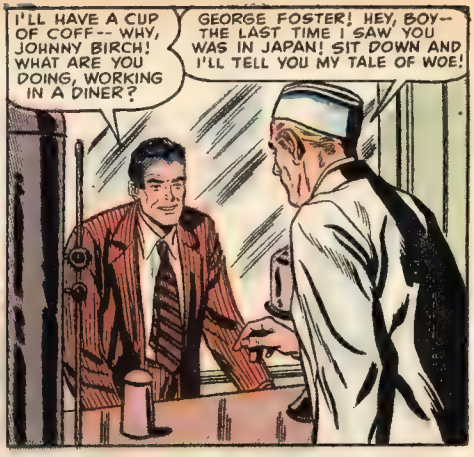
YOU'RE ONLY ACTING LIKE A WEAKLING! IF YOU QUIT, YOU GO WITHOUT ME!

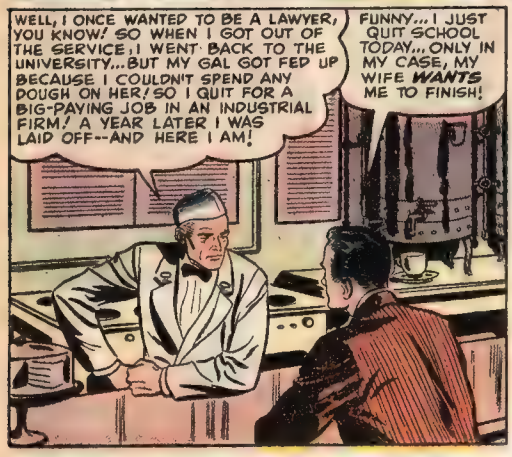
I KNEW EVEN THEN THAT I DIDN'T MEAN WHAT I SAID, BUT MY WORDS BIT INTO GEORGE'S PRIDE... HE QUIETLY PACKED HIS BAG, AND I STOOD THERE, SILENT, AS I WATCHED HIM WALK OUT OF THE DOOR...

(SOB!)... OH, GEORGE... (SOB!)

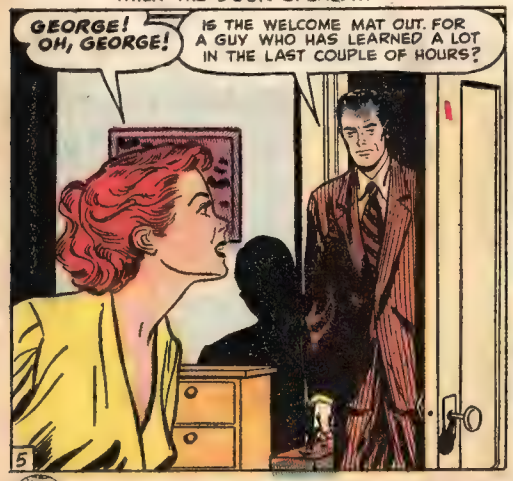
I DIDN'T LEARN WHAT HAPPENED NEXT UNTIL MUCH LATER! BUT AS I STOOD THERE WITH MY HEART BREAKING, GEORGE WENT TO THE STATION AND...



I HAD JUST ABOUT CRIED MY EYES OUT, AND FELT AS THOUGH MY WHOLE WORLD HAD COME TO AN END, WHEN THE DOOR OPENED...



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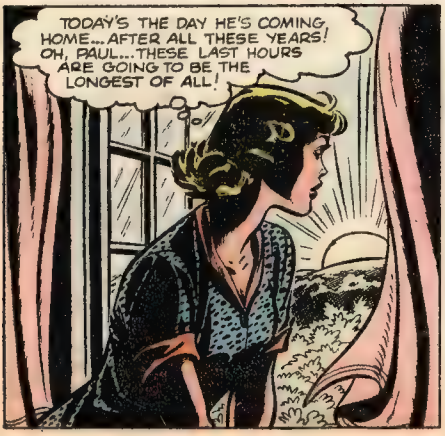
# I'll Wait Forever!

I'M SO HAPPY PAUL'S GOING TO MARRY YOU, GLORIA!

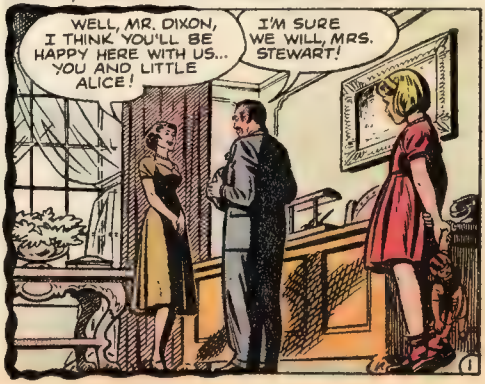
OH, DAD, I'VE LOVED HIM... AND WAITED...ALL THESE YEARS... AND NOW...

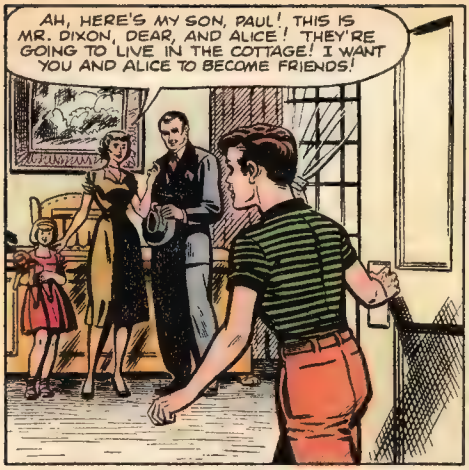
I'D WAITED PATIENTLY SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN... SURE THAT ONE DAY PAUL WOULD REALIZE HE LOVED ME... BUT NOW IT WAS TOO LATE!

B-223

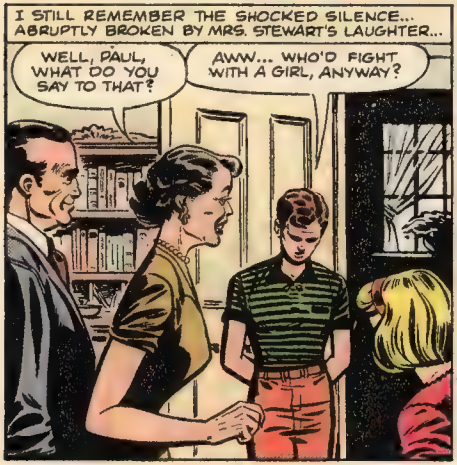



I GUESS I'D LOVED PAUL STEWART EVER SINCE THE DAY DAD AND I FIRST CAME TO LIVE ON THE STEWART ESTATE, WHERE DAD WAS GOING TO BE CARETAKER...




AH, HERE'S MY SON, PAUL! THIS IS MR. DIXON, DEAR, AND ALICE! THEY'RE GOING TO LIVE IN THE COTTAGE! I WANT YOU AND ALICE TO BECOME FRIENDS!

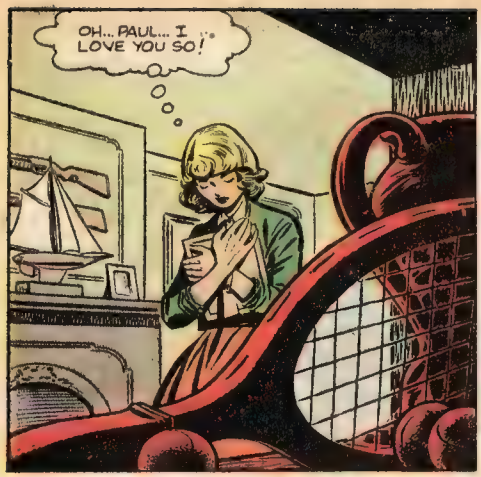
AW, MA, SHE'S A GIRL... AND SO LITTLE!
I AM NOT LITTLE! I'M NINE... AND I CAN LICK YOU ANYTIME!

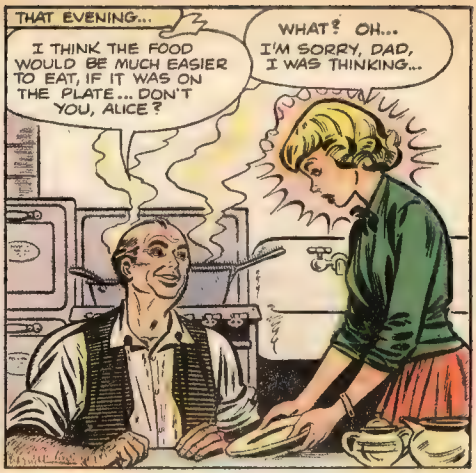

I STILL REMEMBER THE SHOCKED SILENCE... ABRUPTLY BROKEN BY MRS. STEWART'S LAUGHTER...
WELL, PAUL, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?
AWW... WHO'D FIGHT WITH A GIRL, ANYWAY?

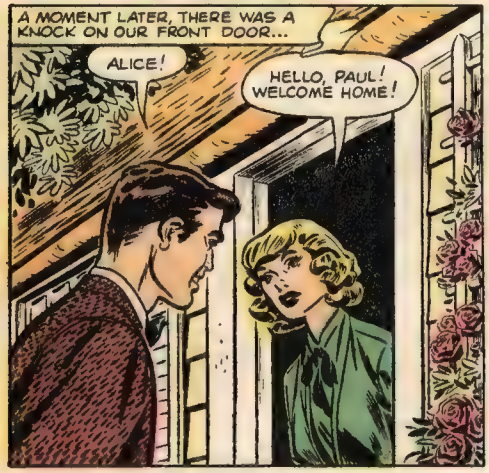
THOUGH HE DIDN'T KNOW IT, HE HAD MY HEART AS OF THAT MOMENT AND NEVER LOST IT AS WE GREW UP..
I'LL... I'LL MISS YOU WHILE YOU'RE IN EUROPE, PAUL!
ME TOO... I GUESS! S'LONG, ALICE! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

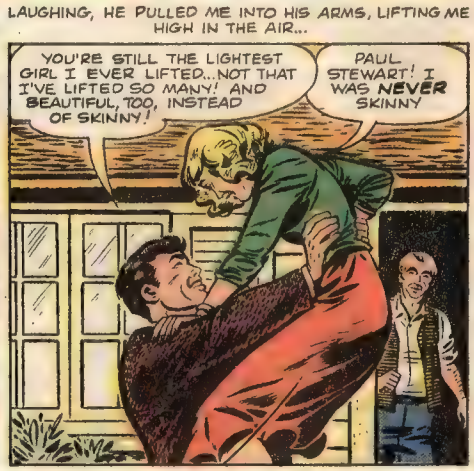
AND I DID MISS HIM... FOR FIVE LONG YEARS! NOW HE WAS COMING HOME, AND, THE BIG HOUSE WAS A HUBBUB OF EXCITEMENT...
AND TELL THE FLORIST I WANT THE DECORATIONS UP NO LATER THAN FIVE!
YES, MA'AM!
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

THERE CERTAINLY IS! YOU CAN GO UP TO PAUL'S OLD ROOM, AND SEE IF IT'S THE WAY HE LEFT IT! I REMEMBER HOW YOU TWO USED TO PLAY THERE... AND I WANT IT EXACTLY AS IT USED TO BE!


OH... PAUL... I ... LOVE YOU SO!


THAT EVENING...
I THINK THE FOOD WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO EAT, IF IT WAS ON THE PLATE... DON'T YOU, ALICE?
WHAT? OH... I'M SORRY, DAD, I WAS THINKING...

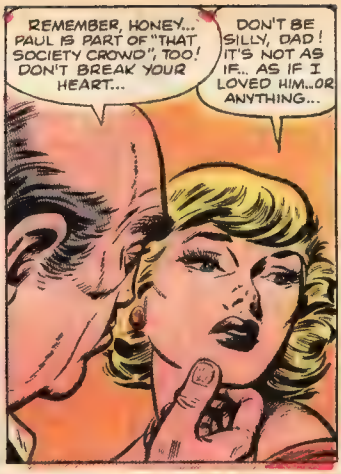

A MOMENT LATER, THERE WAS A KNOCK ON OUR FRONT DOOR...
ALICE!
HELLO, PAUL! WELCOME HOME!


LAUGHING, HE PULLED ME INTO HIS ARMS, LIFTING ME HIGH IN THE AIR...
YOU'RE STILL THE LIGHTEST GIRL I EVER LIFTED...NOT THAT I'VE LIFTED SO MANY! AND BEAUTIFUL, TOO, INSTEAD OF SKINNY!
PAUL STEWART! I WAS NEVER SKINNY

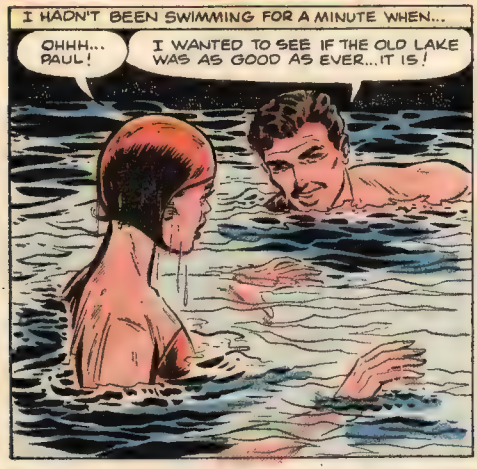
HOW ARE YOU, SIR?
YOU'RE LOOKING FINE, MY BOY!
JUST WONDERFUL!

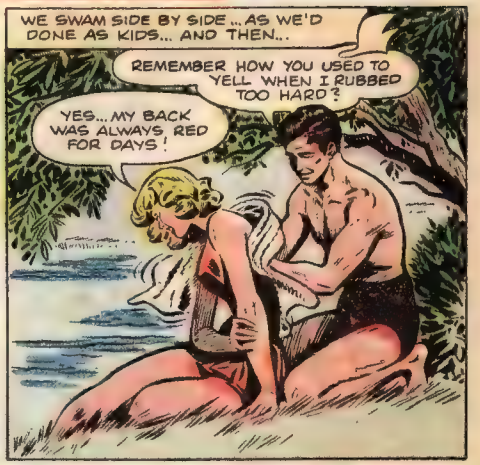
YOU'RE COMING TO MY WELCOME HOME PARTY TOMORROW NIGHT, AREN'T YOU, ALICE?
OF COURSE, PAUL! AS IF I'D MISS IT!

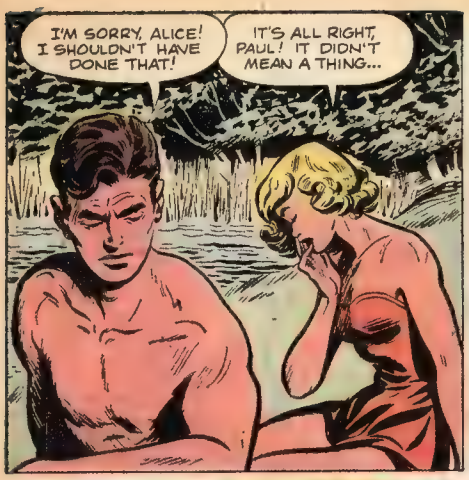
NEXT MORNING, I CAREFULLY IRONED MY ONE FORMAL GOWN, AND...



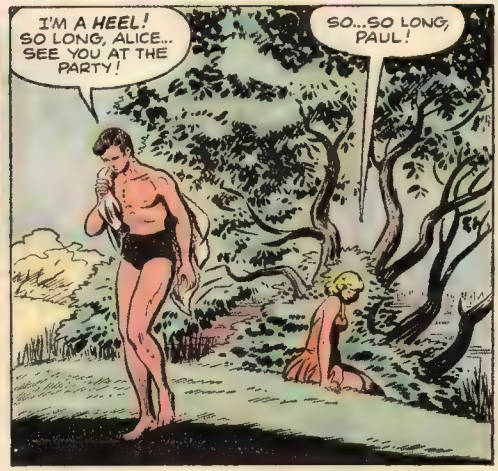

HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, OF COURSE, BUT I REFUSED TO THINK ABOUT THE HOPELESSNESS OF MY LOVE! THAT AFTERNOON, I WENT DOWN TO THE STEWARTS' LAKE FOR A SWIM...TO BE ALONE AND THINK...



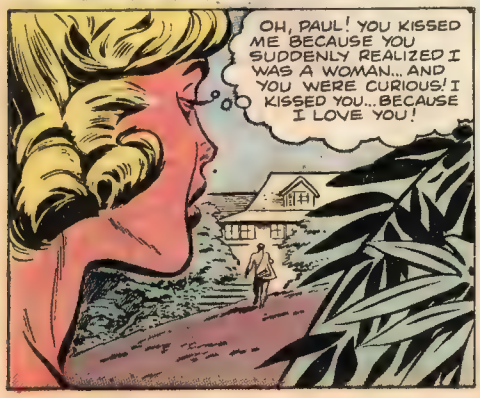



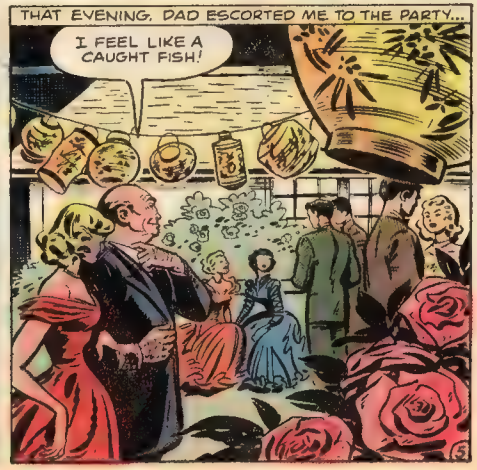



I TRIED TO LOOK AT HIM EVENLY AS I SPOKE, BUT THERE WAS A STRANGE WONDERMENT IN HIS EYES... AND I KNEW HE WAS GOING TO KISS ME AGAIN...




I FELT WONDERFUL...AND TERRIBLE! HAPPIER THAN I HAD EVER BEEN...AND MORE MISERABLE... BUT WHY HAD HE CALLED HIMSELF A "HEEL"? HE HADN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG...



AS SOON AS I SAW PAUL DANCING WITH A STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL GIRL, A TINGLE OF FOREBODING SWEPT THROUGH ME...
BUT I WANT TO FINISH THIS DANCE...
LATER! I WANT YOU TO MEET TWO GREAT PEOPLE! ALICE, THIS IS GLORIA WILLS! THIS IS ALICE DIXON, AND HER FATHER, DARLING!

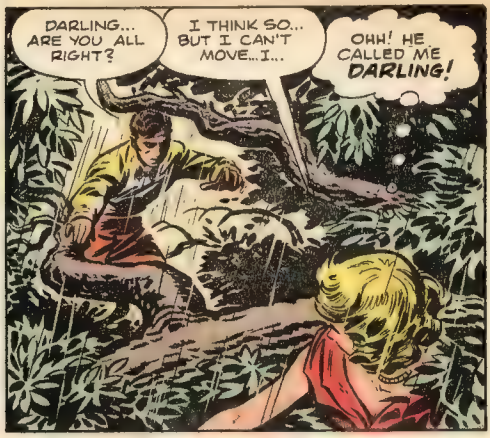
"DARLING!" MY BLOOD WENT COLD, AND A MOMENT LATER, I LEARNED THE TRUTH...
HOW DO YOU DO?
GLORIA IS MY FIANCEE...
YOUR... FIANCEE ?

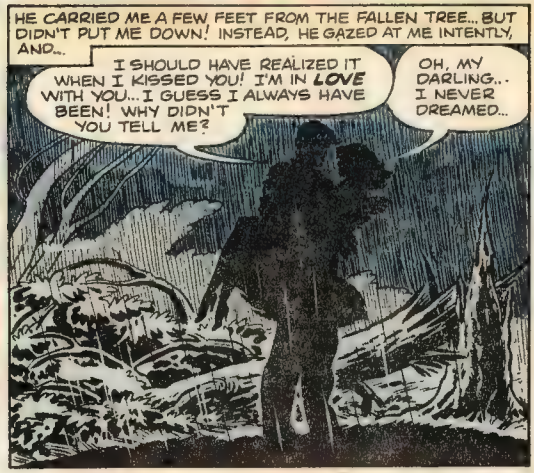
SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO GET THROUGH ANOTHER HOUR OF THE PARTY! I EVEN DANCED WITH PAUL TWICE...CHATTED WITH GLORIA AND MRS. STEWART, BUT ALL THE TIME, SOMETHING HORRIBLE WAS BURNING UP INSIDE ME, AND FINALLY...
I MUST GO NOW, MRS. STEWART...
WHAT'S WRONG, ALICE? ARE YOU ILL?

I MUMBLED SOMETHING AND HURRIED AWAY! IT HAD BEGUN TO RAIN...HARD...BUT I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT...
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THERE... FROM HIM... OH, PAUL, I WAS SUCH A FOOL TO THINK... TO THINK...(SOB!)...

(SOB!)..
(SOB!)..

SUDDENLY...
OHHHH...
THE LIGHTNING... THAT TREE...
CRACK





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- or
- ☐ MOST LOVED HYMNS
- or
- ☐ HILL BILLY HITS

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Slow Poke
Tell Me Why
Cry
The Little White Cloud That Cried
Charmaine
Anytime
Jealousy
Shrimp Boats
Be My Life's Companion
Please, Mr. Sun
Bermuda
Wheel of Fortune
Tiger Rag
Blacksmith Blues
Hambone
Blue Tango
Perfidia

### OR 18 HILL BILLY HITS

It Is No Secret
May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You
Give Me More, More, More
Baby, We're Really in Love
Hey, Good Lookin'
Alabama Jubilee
Always Late
Cryin' Heart Blues
Somebody's Born
Beatin' My Time
Slow Poke
Let Old Mother Nature Have Her Way
Crazy Heart
Mom And Dad's Waltz
Silver and Gold
Wondering
Bundle of Southern Sunshine
Too Old To Cut The Mustard
Music Makin' Mama From Memphis

### OR 18 MOST LOVED HYMNS

The Lord's Prayer
Onward, Christian Soldiers
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Church in the Wildwood
In the Garden
Faith of Our Fathers
There Is Power in the Blood
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Since Jesus Came Into My Heart
Trust on Me
Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross
Softly and Tenderly
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
A Mighty Fortress
Sun of My Soul
It Is No Secret What God Can Do
May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You
Just a Closer Walk with Thee

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- ☐ 18 Hymns $2.98
- ☐ 18 Hill Billy Hits $2.98
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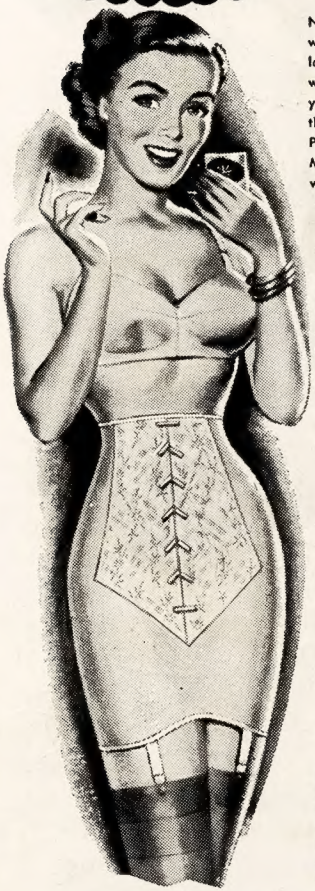

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